

FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

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Quote of the week

“Men’s athletics are so visible it’s amazing. You know, with women’s athletics, my experience has been that there’s a great deal of, um, and I’ll be frank with you here, there’s a great deal of, uh, irregular sexual behavior, let me say.

“And, you know, that’s never been brought to the forefront. If that were that prevalent in men’s athletics, there’d be *Sports Illustrated*, *Time* magazine would add an accent over exposes in the quote of the week with line tape, thank you very much

— *Rick Majerus, University of Utah coach, on a Milwaukee radio talk show, as quoted in the Madison, Wisc., Capital Times. Majerus was responding to a question about the pressures of winning in light of the money a successful athletic team can generate for a school. He said that women’s athletics are not visible and are not money makers. When later asked to elaborate on his remarks about “irregular sexual behavior” on women’s sports teams, Majerus said, “I meant nothing by it. Everybody knows I’m a flippant guy.”*

Gay man wins domestic partner benefits

ROCKVILLE, Md. — A gay man who had been denied the chance to take his live-in male companion of three years on a company, which is not being named because of tion suit with his employer.

The American Civil Liberties Union announced Nov. 1 that the nationwide company, which is not being named because of stipulations in the settlement, has agreed to amend its policy in Montgomery County, Md., where the man worked. The company said it will do the following: ensure that lesbian, gay, and other unmarried employees are not discriminated against, provide trips and access to all other company-sponsored functions on a non-discriminatory basis to employees in Montgomery County and their partners, and pay the plaintiff in this case an undisclosed amount of money.

Jeff Donahoe, the plaintiff, is an account executive at the Montgomery County branch of the company. He won a week-long trip for two to Hawaii for meeting his annual sales quota in 1987. The company allowed and paid for employees to take their heterosexual partners on such trips. When Donahoe announced that he wanted to take his male partner on that trip and two others, the company adopted a “spouses only” policy.

Donahoe filed a complaint with the county’s Human Rights Commission in February 1988, alleging that the company’s policy discriminated against him on the basis of marital status and sexual orientation. In January of 1989, the Executive Director of the commission declared that “the policy of not permitting benefits to unmarried employees is discriminatory.” He determined that there were “reasonable grounds to believe that the employer had engaged in unlawful employment practices.” The final settlement was reached last month.

ACLU staff attorney Elizabeth Symonds said, “This domestic partner benefits case marks a significant advance in the protection of lesbians and gay men from discrimination in the workplace.”

The ACLU also said that because the recent settlement prohibits those involved from disclosing the name of the company and the amount of money paid to Donahoe, the company avoided a public hearing on its apparent violation of the county’s anti-discrimination law.

□ Mike Riegle

Verbal assault case settled for \$20,000

SAN FRANCISCO — A gay man who was verbally assaulted and refused service by an ARCO A.M./P.M. Mini Market employee in Los Angeles has won a \$20,000 settlement. In November of 1987, Johnny Ray Gearhart entered the market to redeem a winning lottery ticket. The clerk refused to serve him and started yelling “Get out of the store faggot. I don’t want to catch AIDS.”

“The recent increase in violence against the gay and lesbian community and against people with AIDS makes this win particular-

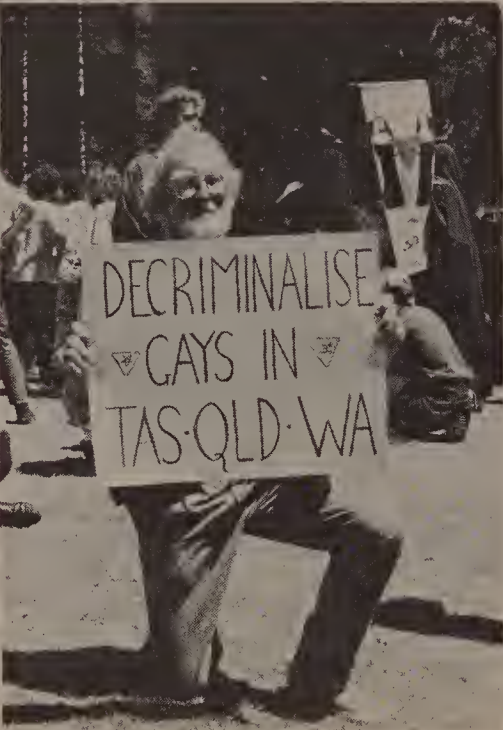
ly valuable,” said Cynthia Goldstein of the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA). “This settlement warns bigots and bashers that they will pay a stiff price for their prejudice and that the lesbian and gay community will not tolerate any form of homophobia.”

NGRA began its Anti-Violence Litigation Project last year in order to address a new wave of anti-lesbian and -gay attacks. As part of the Project, NGRA will publish a manual to assist attorneys handling civil criminal cases against the perpetrators of violent attacks.

For more information on the Anti-Violence Litigation Project, write NGRA, 540 Castro St., San Francisco, Calif., 94111 or call (415) 863-3624.

□ Mike Riegle

International day of protest



Kendall Lovett

Australian gay men and lesbians urge pro-gay law reform, Oct. 21

SYDNEY — More than 200 lesbians, gay men, and their supporters marched through the streets of Sydney Oct. 21 as part of an internationally coordinated push for pro-gay law reform in the Australian states of Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland. In Tasmania, almost 200 gay rights advocates held a rally in front of the Parliament House the same day.

“We believe that change is within reach in these states at long last,” said Ken Davis of the Gay Solidarity Group here. “Overseas protests are condemning the anti-homosexual laws in these three states as barbaric, AIDS workers say they are an obstacle to our response to the epidemic, and public opinion polls show majority support for change.”

Protests were also held in Canberra, Melbourne, Perth, Cairns and Hobart over the weekend of Oct. 20-22. Internationally, there were pickets of Australian embassies, travel centers and consulates in New York, London, Amsterdam, Bonn, Paris, Stockholm, and Washington. And on behalf of the East German lesbian and gay movement, the East Berlin group, “Courage,” sent a message of support to Hobart.

Other weekend events included the unveiling of “AIDS Prevention and the Law,” a report from an Australian Federation of AIDS organizations, and a Leather and Lace Sleaze ball held in Hobart.

□ Kendall Lovett

Message board says ‘Kill All Queers’

WASHINGTON — An office building sits on the corner of Connecticut Avenue and L Street here. And on that office building is a Times Square-style electronic message board. And on October 23, there was a different sort of message displayed on the board which usually transmits public service announcements from non-profit groups. The message read “HELP STAMP OUT AIDS NOW: KILL ALL QUEERS AND JUNKIES.”

Judith Miller, the building owner and president of Miller Companies, Inc., told the *Washington Blade*, “I was shocked and appalled when I learned of this. I absolutely apologize to the gay community.”

Miller first denied that such a message

could have entered the computer operated message system. She said she thought it must have been a computer virus, or that perhaps the message was an unauthorized entry from outside the company. After further investigation, it was determined that Brian Keller, a 29-year-old computer operator who had worked for the firm for two years, was responsible for the anti-gay message. Miller said that although Keller denied having transmitted the message, he admits that he may have typed such a message on the keyboard. Keller was fired Oct. 25, two days after the message appeared.

Gay and lesbian activists said they were upset by the incident because the message directly encouraged anti-gay violence. Representatives from several local gay groups asked Miller to help correct the damage by contributing money to AIDS service groups and groups working to end anti-gay and -lesbian violence.

Miller demonstrated her “good faith” by giving checks for \$5,000 to both the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Whitman-Walker Clinic. Miller also agreed to donate message board time for messages from a gay anti-violence organization.

□ Liddy Rich

Reunion for gay liberationists

BOSTON — Boston’s 20th Gay Pride Reunion Committee will sponsor a reunion for those involved in local gay liberation organizing and action between 1969 and 1974. The event will take place during the 1990 Gay Pride celebration here. For more information, write or call Bill Canfield, Box 67, East Hardwick, VT, 05836, (802) 533-7776.

□ Kelly Gaines

Lesbian book will not be censored

TRENTON, N.J. — Betty Berzon’s *Permanent Partners*, which deals with homosexual relationships, will remain on the shelves at the Princeton Public Library despite the objections of a patron who called the book “offensive and evil trash.”

Among the topics covered in Berzon’s book are internal and external obstacles faced by lesbian and gay couples, such as the lack of long-term couples as role models and the absence of support from society and family members.

According to *The Trenton Times*, Anne Williams, a member of a group that helps raise money for new books, Friends of the Library, noticed that the book had been purchased with Friends’ funds. She said she objected to her money being spent for a book that “prominently displayed [in the new books section] can so easily attract a young person” which, she said, “could be tragic.” Williams also said that although she has only “dipped into the book” and has not read the whole thing, she finds it pornographic and perverse.

Jacqueline Thresher, Princeton’s librarian, said she would not remove the book. “As a librarian,” she said, “I would rather go to jail than take a book off the shelves.” Thresher added, “Our library has a strong commitment to free access of information. We believe that ideas aren’t dangerous and knowledge doesn’t hurt.”

The president of the Friends of the Library, Barbara Freedman, agreed with Thresher. “The control of the selection of titles is completely, and rightly so, up to the library,” she said. “We will not engage in censorship of any kind.”

□ Mike Riegle

Gay sheep?

DUBOIS, Idaho — Scientists at the sheep experiment station here have determined that as many as 16 percent of the nation’s male sheep appear “uninterested” in advances made by female sheep. The U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers said they thought that at least half of these shy male sheep are homosexual, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. The scientists also said that the male sheep who are not interested in procreation cost U.S. sheep ranchers an estimated seven million dollars a year.

□ Kelly Gaines

Lesbian sex calendar in trouble

VANCOUVER, Canada — Makers of the Dyke Sex Calendar have seen their product sweep the local scene, but getting the calendar distributed outside of the immediate area has been challenging.

Five hundred calendars on their way to Washington state were delayed by U.S. customs officials for weeks, according to *Angles*, a Vancouver gay and lesbian publication. And some orders that were sent across Canada have been returned without ever having gone on bookstore shelves.

Louise Proulx and Karen Tully, the calendar’s producers, say they have been assured by their U.S. distributor that the customs issue will be resolved and that the calendars will soon be available in Washington state.

But Proulx and Tully are more worried about access to the calendar in their own country because they can’t find a Canadian distributor willing to take on a lesbian calendar. Thus far, the women have solicited small loans from members of the gay and lesbian community in order to distribute the calendar themselves. It is currently available in some parts of Toronto and Montreal, but orders from women’s bookstores in Calgary and Montreal and from a bar in Winnipeg have been returned.

“I can’t believe there aren’t 10 dykes in Calgary and Winnipeg who would not like to buy it,” said Tully. “The outlet owners are making political decisions and are deciding what lesbians in their areas can have access to. It’s censorship,” she said.

The calendar is a community effort, according to Proulx and Tully. They said they tried to cover a broad range of lesbian images, including different body sizes, different ages, women of color, and visibly working-class women. Ultimately, they selected 13 photographs from more than 70 that were submitted. The calendar also includes listings of dates that are important to the lesbian and gay and women’s communities.

□ Kelly Gaines

Fellowships offered for activists of color

WASHINGTON — The Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program offers activists of color stipends of \$10,000 for sabbaticals of three months or more. Five fellows are chosen each year in this program designed to honor outstanding activists of color and provide an opportunity to reflect on past work and re-energize for the work ahead.

To qualify for a fellowship, you must 1) be a person of color, 2) have at least five years intensive experience as a community activist, 3) have worked with groups of people to resolve social or economic problems by organizing and taking collective action, 4) have demonstrated capacity for leadership and innovation, 5) be committed to continuing to work for social change, 6) have the endorsement of the organization with which you work most closely.

Applicants working on housing, education, immigration, welfare rights, land rights, disarmament, apartheid, or any other social or economic issues are welcome. Activists can be professional organizers, volunteer staff, researchers, fundraisers, cultural workers or economic developers, etc.

Applications must be postmarked December 1, 1989. To get an application, write the Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program, c/o The Youth Project, 2335 18th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009, or call 202/483-0030.

□ Stephanie Poggi

SENATE



(L to R) Arline Isaacson, Steve Tierney, and Barbara Boring

Passage

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horrified about what the bill actually says," said Boston attorney Katherine Triantafillou, who described the final language as "pretty appalling."

"The message is 'Here are your rights, but homosexuality is not endorsed,'" Triantafillou said. "What are we fighting for? The prevailing notion among the bill's supporters was this is the best we could do. I was in the minority." Even so, Triantafillou said, the gay rights bill could have "a big impact, despite my reported reservations."

Another activist compared the controversy over the anti-gay language to the Sandinista-baiting that occurs whenever the U.S. Senate debates Central American issues. "You can't stand up in the Senate to denounce funding the contras," she said, "until you have made it clear you oppose [Nicaraguan President Daniel] Ortega as well."

Political pragmatists, such as Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Gay and Lesbians Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), minimize the long-term importance of the offensive language, since it primarily addresses issues outside the purview of the law. "The amendments carry no weight. The foster care line is mostly gibberish and doesn't even address lesbian and gay people directly. The civil rights statute doesn't address the issue of marriage, and the religious institution exemption reshuffles wording that already existed."

For Cathcart, what is important about the bill beyond the actual protections it introduces is the indirect impact on other gay rights. For instance, fear of being fired from her job may prevent a lesbian mother from publicly pursuing child custody. Knowing that she is — at least theoretically — protected from unfair termination may give her the extra confidence to press ahead with securing custody. The same would hold true for gay-bashing victims, Cathcart said, who are afraid of the ensuing publicity and won't press charges against an assailant.

Raising people's spirits

In a less tangible way, the actual passage of any pro-gay/lesbian piece of legislation is reason enough to celebrate, says Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, given the scarcity of victories around the country. "Passage of the bill has greatly lifted people's spirits," Hyde said. "It was not a great day yesterday," she said, referring to the Election Day defeats of various gay rights referenda around the country. "The fact of 17 years of persistence and tenacity is a wonderful kind of model for others. Success is not going to come easy. It's very inspiring for people, especially for those states where there is no statewide organizing.... This breaks the seven-year drought since Wisconsin."

From the vantage point of someone who talks to gay and lesbian groups around the country who are at various levels of political and organizational sophistication, Hyde said the impact of the homophobic parts of the bill will be minimal. "It is important [for Massachusetts activists] to have that kind of internal discussion, since people feel so passionately... but it just doesn't get translated outside the state."

When Hyde recently spoke at the first congress of the newly-created Colorado Gay/Lesbian Task Force and told them about the Massachusetts legislation, "People were excited and felt we can really do it, even if it does take a long time."

The referendum threat

Even before the bill's passage, members

of the religious right and several homophobic state senators threatened to repeal the Massachusetts law by placing it on the ballot next year in the form of a referendum. The mechanism for getting such referenda on the ballot is somewhat complicated, and would require state-wide organizing to collect the number of signatures and meet the stringent timeline.

Nonetheless, this threat concerns some activists, given the history of defeat for gay rights referenda nationally and the inability to address other issues. Others, however, who have less faith that the law will actually benefit people's lives, cite the experience of the anti-gay Briggs Initiative in California ten years ago, which prompted extensive — and successful — grassroots organizing and educational efforts. A comparable campaign in Massachusetts would promote community-building efforts outside of the greater Boston area and put gay rights near the top of the state's political agenda.

Hyde, among others, said the bill's intrinsic value shouldn't be underestimated. "People have said the bill is just an organizing tool, and it's true. But it has great material significance for some people in Massachusetts. The less privileged a gay person is, the more materially significant the bill is."

The Wisconsin law

Just how significant the bill is will depend in part on its usage, and the experience in Wisconsin and the few Massachusetts municipalities offering limited protection can only hint at what's in store for the entire state.

Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act was passed in 1982. Name notwithstanding, the Act covers housing and public accommodations, as well as employment. In the last few years, the number of complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation has fluctuated between 50 and 80 per 5000, and 90 percent of these cases address on-the-job discrimination, according to LeAnna Ware of the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division. Over a 12-month period ending in June 1989, only 68 complaints out of a total complaint load of 5000 alleged sexual orientation, said Ware.

Several factors could explain the relatively low reliance on the Wisconsin law. According to Ware, a general level of awareness of the law is minimal beyond Madison and Milwaukee, the state's two major cities. "People are more hesitant to file anti-discrimination complaints of any kind for fear of being labelled a troublemaker," Ware said. Inadvertently feeding into that fear of publicity is Wisconsin's open records law, which allows anyone access to filed complaints.

Despite this, Ware sees a value to the law. "Sometimes the [Equal Rights Division] staff fears the law doesn't make a difference, but at gay events people have told me it does. Just having the bill makes them feel valued and accepted."

Sometimes, the law can have a broader, more tangible impact as well. Last month, the law was used to apply to an out-of-state employer for the first time. In a case settled out of court, Bradner Smith & Company, a Chicago-based firm that relocated a gay employee to Wisconsin only to transfer him back to Illinois after eight weeks because of complaints by homophobic co-workers, agreed to pay the man \$15,000 and adopt a non-discrimination hiring policy. "When I was negotiating a settlement," Milwaukee attorney Diane Houk told *GCN*, "I let Bradner Smith know about the success rate [of other gay discrimination cases settled in Wisconsin]. The law gives me great bargain-

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Sullivan backs Dannemeyer's attack on youth suicide report

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary says youth suicide report doesn't uphold 'traditional family values'

By John Zeh

WASHINGTON — Louis Sullivan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), recently said that parts of a federal report on teen suicide among gay and lesbian youth run contrary to the goal of "advancing traditional family values."

Sullivan's statements agreed with criticisms of the report raised by U.S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.). Upon the release of the report, Dannemeyer immediately denounced the two gay-related chapters and sought responses from Sullivan, President George Bush and HHS Assistant Secretary James Mason.

"I am strongly committed to advancing traditional family values," Sullivan told Dannemeyer. "Federal policies must be crafted with great care so as to strengthen rather than undermine the institution of the family. In my opinion, the views expressed in the paper run contrary to that aim."

The paper that Sullivan was referring to was written by San Francisco psychotherapist Paul Gibson. In his study, one of only two gay-related papers in the 50-paper report (see *GCN*, Oct. 22), Gibson said that gay young people who take their own lives may make up 30 percent or more of all youth suicides in the U.S. Gibson called broad societal stigmatization and discrimination against homosexuals "the root problem" of gay and lesbian youth suicide and urged that self-inflicted wounds be counted as hate-motivated crimes by law enforcement officials. Gibson told *GCN* that "denouncing" or neglecting the causes of suicides only confounds the problem.

Sullivan's written response assured Dannemeyer that Gibson's paper, "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide," did not "in any way represent my personal beliefs or the policy of this department."

The Secretary's response "stunned gay

Prop S

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Yes on S workers put their campaign on hold after the Oct. 17 earthquake

well. Reverend Lloyd Mashore led the campaign for D, which repealed Concord's law banning discrimination against people with AIDS, with support from the anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition of Orange County. Mashore was also elected to the city council with the second largest number of votes in a field of 16 candidates.

Laws protecting the rights of people with AIDS have been passed in 15 cities in the United States, including San Francisco. This is the first time such a law has been repealed, and many fear that it sets a dangerous precedent for the rest of the country.

"If the law is accepted here, it's going to have a domino effect," claimed Mashore, who said he opposed the law because it favored a "special interest" group. But Larry Whitsell, pastor of the Diablo Valley Metropolitan Community Church believes that

rights activists," said Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "The study has been widely praised for its fair and factual analysis of the growing problem of youth suicide, especially [among] gays and lesbians. Sullivan's statements are alarmingly insensitive and frightening," he said.

"Dr. Sullivan may disavow my paper," said Gibson, "but that doesn't change the fact that there are gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth who are at risk to suicide."

NGLTF's Executive Director, Urvashi Vaid, wrote Sullivan a letter that said that the HHS Secretary had "politically validated" Dannemeyer's anti-gay accusations about a report that should "not be politicized."

"The report correctly identifies the special vulnerability of gay and lesbian youth," she said. "It reveals that [they] face extremely hostile, stressful, isolating, and unsupportive family environments that have led to a disproportionate number of suicides."

Vaid accused Sullivan of being "unmindful of these facts," which could "fuel anti-gay/lesbian hostility." She requested a meeting and urged HHS "to actively work to ensure that the report's recommendations are fully and quickly implemented."

NGLTF is a 16-year-old political group committed to securing full gay and lesbian civil rights and effective, responsible AIDS policies from the federal government. The group claims 20,000 members in all 50 states and the Virgin Islands.

"We believe strong family values have traditionally meant the nurturing, affirmation, protection, and understanding of young people," said Vaid, "not their alienation and stigmatization. We believe, as we hope you do, that suicide and violence are not family values." □

this is just a cover for homophobia. "They're primarily against homosexuals," he said. No on D campaign coordinator John Allen expressed frustration at the effectiveness of Mashore's crusade. "We were unable to fight it emotionally," he said.

The opponents of San Francisco's S and their Concord counterparts promoting D were able to turn both into referenda on lesbian and gay lifestyles. They avoided actively homophobic campaigning, but the message was clear to the conservative voters who dominated this off-year election. Their successes on both sides of the Bay are a striking loss for proponents of lesbian and gay, and PWA, rights. The triumph of homophobia and AIDSphobia in the Bay Area and traditionally permissive San Francisco sends a dangerous message to the rest of the country. □

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Available immediately. Maintain overall design of the paper and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design centerspread and cover graphics (or assign to volunteer artist), as well as weekly display advertisements. Work with Ad Coordinator and Promotions staff on income-generating projects, including promotional/publicity materials, pamphlets and ad calls.

Qualifications: Strong graphic design skills. Familiarity with type specification, paste-up, knowledge of offset mechanical production and printing techniques, and previous related experience preferred.

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Available in January 1990. Solicit and edit articles covering cultural and political issues for the features section, including monthly book supplements. Provide overall direction for features pages.

Qualifications: Strong editing, copy editing and writing skills. Knowledge of issues of importance to diverse communities. Organizational skills and ability to work under deadline pressure.

Deadline for application: December 11

All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, and anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to collective decision-making.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$200/week and include health/life insurance, routine health care through the Fenway Community Health Center, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

To apply for either position: Please send resume and cover letter to:

GCN Job Search Committee
62 Berkeley Street
Boston, MA 02116

“Community Voices” and “Speaking Out” are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and “Speaking Out” contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and “Speaking Out” contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Letter and “Speaking Out” contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. “Speaking Out” contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Dwelling on a few bad apples

Dear GCN:

I’m writing you concerning a letter written by T. Jeffery Gregoire in Vol.17, No.15. I have been a reader of GCN for many years and have never written concerning an article, but feel it’s time to do so.

I feel that when warning people against possible prisoner scams people should also mention that there are serious friend-seekers behind bars too. Most of us are not looking to scam people but just looking to meet a friend or two. I would have felt a whole lot better if Mr. Gregoire had added this to his letter.

We gay prisoners have a hard enough time getting people to write us without people insinuating that most of us are “probably” con-artists. Things being the way they are today, most people feel the need to use cau-

tion in almost everything they do. I feel outsiders should use this rule when corresponding with prisoners but, give us a chance to prove that there are a lot of good, caring gay people in prison. The average gay prisoner is looked down upon as a “no good person” (to say the least) by straight prisoners, administration people, classification/parole board, ETC. So I guess I have to accept this same attitude from Mr. Gregoire.

I’m sorry if I’m being too hard on this gentleman. I’m sure his intentions were all good. I just hope in the future he will say a good thing or two about the serious gay prisoners and not dwell so much on a few bad apples.

I’ve met friends through GCN’s “Prisoners Seeking Friends” who are into recovery/sobriety as I requested in my ad. I thank you very much.

Joseph Brygodzinski
OCCC Program Unit M3
One Administration Rd
Bridgewater, MA 02324

25 cents toward ‘community’

Dear GCN:

First of all I’d like to cordially thank GCN for their resourcefulness toward prisoners throughout all the penal systems.

Today I got my issue of GCN and I read a letter addressing the lack of concern from both the organized gay and lesbian establishment and the community as a whole. It’s very sad when we have so little sense of “community” that we won’t use (“sacrifice”) a little of our time to reach out to those who really need to be reached because they have no one else to turn to.

There are so many incidents (including suicides and complete lack of confidence) where just a little care can make all the difference in the world. It would often take no more than a few moments and a stamp to let a prisoner feel part of this world and let the guards who run these places know that the prisoner is not alone and powerless and therefore abusable.

Such a little effort to move towards more solidarity for our community!

Ricky Maddix
39404 (1B-130)
Box 7
Moberly, MO 65270

Remember the Holocaust

Dear GCN:

We need your help. Together, we have a chance to make a contribution to the lessening of oppression of lesbian women and gay men by helping in the effort to remember the Holocaust, an example of people’s inhumanity to other people, and we need your network, especially GCN to let as many people as possible know of the opportunity.

We have contacted and been favorably received by the developing United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 717, Washington, D.C. 20036). Our proposal was simple — we must not forget that people who love others of the same gender were early victims of the Holocaust and, according to some accounts, continued to be victims even during the evacuation of the camps. We’ve suggested that some of those lesbian women and gay men who were involved in the camps and elsewhere in Nazi Germany at that time should be included in the oral histories being collected by the museum, and that their artifacts should be included in the museum’s collection.

Our organization and the Linda Leibman Human Rights Fund, Inc., have agreed to purchase and contribute the movie *Pink Triangles* and two books, Heger’s *The Men with the Pink Triangles* and Plant’s *The Pink Triangle: Gays in the Third Reich*. In addition, and more importantly for the purposes of this letter, we have agreed to act as the go-between where appropriate for anyone who would be willing to submit an oral history or who has artifacts that they might be willing to contribute to the museum and who wishes their identity to remain anonymous. We are also eager to work with anyone who would be willing to tell her or his story on videotape, with or without anonymity.

Too often, in accounts of the atrocities, homoerotic people and gypsies, both early victims, are ignored. We would like to insure that such is not the case in this national museum. Thus we need to reach as many people as possible with the request to let us know if anyone who was a part of that time in Germany is willing to donate relics of the

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in “editorials” represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

The GCN Collective in alphabetical order by primary title/function (*indicates member of paid staff collective):

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Holocaust or is willing to be interviewed. They may contact either of us at the address below.

Sincerely,
Robert O. Hawkins, Jr.
Rose A. Walton
EEGO Holocaust Museum Project
PO Box 708, Main St.
Bridgehampton, NY 11932

Beware of 'The Real Truth'

Dear GCN:

Please be aware that a campaign has recently been initiated to eliminate the availability of a highly dangerous and insidious book: *The Real Truth About Women And AIDS* by Helen Singer Kaplan, published by Simon & Schuster. The book suggests, among an abundance of fallacies, that women should avoid "high risk men," that a "decent" man will avoid homosexual contact, that lesbians are immune to HIV regardless of their sexual practices, and that there is no such thing as sex that is safe. That is, one must have sex exclusively with men who have been "tested and cleared."

Don't stock the book. Tell Simon & Schuster why. Don't contribute to the opportunistic profiteering around an issue already fraught with fear and anxiety or to the callous and inexcusably misguided peddling of incorrect information.

Sincerely,
Monica Pearl
For the ACT UP/NY Women's
Action Committee
New York, N.Y.

'DHPG Mon Amour': Critiquing the critique

Dear GCN:

I feel that you made a gross error in your critique of the film *DHPG Mon Amour* screened at the Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival in September of this year. Your error lies in the incorrect reporting of what you *think* you heard in the voice-over narrations of the film.

Alisa Lebow states in her film review: "We are told if David had learned about DHPG earlier he would not have lost his vision. This may be true, but we have to take it on faith." That is quite inaccurate. On the soundtrack Joe Walsh says very clearly, "This drug was not even approved when David first went on it, and if he could have gotten it sooner he might not be blind today."

Joe Walsh works at the Community Research Initiative, (he states this fact in the opening few moments of the film), and both he and David were well aware of DHPG and what it could do for David but were unable to get the drug because it was not FDA approved at the time. The only reason David was eventually able to get Gancyclovir (DHPG) in December '88 was because he fit the criteria set forth by the FDA, meaning the CMV retinitis had reached an area so dangerously close to his retina that blindness was inevitable. However, even at this late stage, Gancyclovir slowed the progression of the CMV infection enabling David to have vision for a full eight months — almost until the time of his death in September '89. For he and Joe, DHPG was a kind of wonder drug. DHPG has recently been FDA approved and even though it cannot cure CMV infection or AIDS, recent observations and trial statistics have shown it to be effective for some people in stopping CMV progression in many parts of the body, including the eyes.

This blatant oversight on the part of Alisa Lebow as film critic changes the whole point of her assessment of *DHPG Mon Amour* and renders it incorrect and misleading. Furthermore, I found the reviewer to have an overriding acerbic and cynical tone throughout the festival review which is neither productive, informative or helpful to anyone. It is merely jaded.

Irresponsible journalism, in this case regarding an AIDS issue, is deeply troubling coming from someone who is supposed to be concerned about and working against AIDS discrimination.

Carl George
Filmmaker
DHPG Mon Amour

Really upset about size

Dear GCN:

I'm writing this because I read the penpal ads every week and they really get me upset. The reason being most of the guys who write

these ads are always looking for small good looking men. Well, what about the guys who are not so small. Can't we be good looking? We all have feelings no matter who we are.

Back in 1980 I was a fat man and I tried to find a lover who would love me for me and the way I was. Well, guess what. No one would give me a look. I was a young man and needed someone to love and who would love me.

Then in 1983 I lost 118 lbs. and looked really good. Well, I found guys with no problems, but they didn't care if I was fat or small, they just cared how big my cock was, and in my case I lost them too.

But the reason I'm saying all this is that although I'm not a hunk, I'm good. I have a heart and real feelings. I've found someone in your penpal ads who is really beautiful and isn't hung up on size of this or that. It's good to have friends to talk to, or write. Anyone is welcome to write if you wish.

Michael Gentner
HCR 70, Box 428
Buck's Harbor, ME 04618

Advocating for a scholarship fund

[GCN received a copy of this letter to members of the Steering Committee of the East Coast Bisexual Network. — Ed.]

Dear GCN:

As the possibilities for the coming together of a bisexual community/movement manifest, I write suggesting we take this opportune time of consolidative beginnings to closely examine ourselves, and what it is we hope to achieve consciously and unconsciously. Having joined the ECBN steering committee near the end of this past May's conference in Harvard, I may still have the relatively objective freshness of a new-comer to offer some insights into what is liable to become increasingly problematic for us all in the not too distant future.

Herewith, I would like to wholeheartedly recommend the remaining balance of the proceeds from May's conference be applied to a scholarship fund. This fund should be available to assist people of color and/or PWAs to attend next June's International Bisexual Conference in San Francisco (with or without the stipulation that they be East Coast residents). In addition, some of this fund should be used for advertising/outreach to these two communities.

I make this recommendation with candor. I am afraid we are about to compound the institutional racism/ethnocentrism rampant in the lesbian, gay and straight worlds from which we come with a brand of our own. What is so insidious about modern Western culture is how it conditions us to unconsciously render people of color invisible. The automatic unconscious assumption is that the in-common world is somehow white. People of color become noticeable only when they cosmeticize themselves into flattering variations of Caucasian, Judeo-Christian norms. Or, when otherwise "accepted," as the exotic *Other* whose folkways and spirituality is ripe for market exploitation at the hands of "New Age" culture-vendors.

I commend the establishment of the Bi Community Resource Office at Boston's Gay/Lesbian Community Center. It is overdue. I only hope it will promptly commence strenuous outreach among people of color as well as vigorously include PWAs in as many functions as possible.

Let us become more than unawake accomplices in the disturbing trend towards lip-service and window-dressing prevalent among those who should know better. In love, mindfulness and solidarity.

Leonard Tirado
Albany, N.Y.

Gay dancing at Disneyland

By Andrew Exler

It appears that after nearly ten years of several activists fighting for the right to dance with members of the same sex at Disneyland, I can now write the final chapter to this civil rights victory at the "Gayest Place on Earth."

A lawsuit that was pending against Disneyland regarding same-sex "touch" dancing was dismissed in August by three gay men who were told by Disneyland security officers, in 1988, that "touch" dancing was reserved for heterosexual couples only. The attorneys for the gay men issued the following statement to the *Los Angeles Times*:

"Disneyland reaffirms that its written policy prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation. The lawsuit has been dismissed by the plaintiffs."

A Disneyland spokesperson told the *Times* that the case had been dismissed and that same-sex dancing was "no longer a problem" at the amusement park.

In 1984, my right to dance with other males at the amusement park was upheld by a conservative Orange County (California) jury. My case has been referred to as "Disneyland I." The sequel, "Disneyland II," would be an appropriate title for the more recent suit.

In September of this year, eight gay male couples successfully challenged same-sex "touch" dancing on two different dance floors in the Magic Kingdom. Security allowed us to dance romantically and told complaining guests that we had just as much right as everyone else to dance.

The dance policy at Disneyland was implemented in 1957, just two years after the park opened. The policy stated:

"Couples only are allowed on the dance floor (male/female)."

Prior to 1980, same-sex couples had been told on several occasions to stop dancing together, but it was not until September 13, 1980, when Shawn Elliott and I took to the dance floor that the policy was challenged for the first time. That evening, Shawn and I refused to stop dancing together and refused to find female partners, as requested by security. Instead, we continued "disco" dancing until five security officers physically grabbed us and removed us from the Tomorrowland Terrace dance arcade. After a 30-minute interrogation we were escorted out of the park and threatened with arrest if we returned that evening. We immediately filed suit and won the right to dance in May, 1984. However, Disneyland insisted our legal victory only applied to Shawn and me. Immediately after the ruling, an attorney for Disneyland told the national wire services: "If same sex couples try to dance together, we'll remove them again. Each individual person who wants to dance with another person of the same sex would have to file an individual lawsuit. If it reaches the point where it affects the image of Disneyland because people of the same sex want to dance together, then we'll shut down dancing altogether here."

On April 11, 1988, Christopher Drake,

Eric Hubert and Jeffrey Stabile, as part of an outing by a number of California lesbian and gay college groups, had been dancing to rock videos with male partners for nearly an hour. A slow song was played and the three men began to "slow" dance with male partners. It was then that security officers informed the men they could not "touch" dance. With the generous help of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York and the Los Angeles law office of LeRoy Walker and Associates, the three men filed "Disneyland II."

My recent test of the dance policy with 15 other gay men and two lesbians was a memorable experience. Everyone was extremely enthusiastic and proud that we were finally allowed to enjoy the same rights as everyone else at the park. We ranged in age from 18 to 62, and some of those dancing were HIV positive, yet they danced just as long as the rest of us! At the end of the evening, many of us shook hands with security officers and thanked them for respecting our right to have a good time. Los Angeles civil rights activist Morris Kight described the event by stating it was "...a giant step for gaykind."

Now that it has taken nine years and two exhausting lawsuits for Disneyland to recognize our civil rights, I think it is extremely important that we exercise those rights at the amusement park, whether it be same-sex dancing or holding hands while walking down Main Street, USA. Being out and visible is probably one of the most significant and healthy statements we can make as gay men and lesbians. We have to stop this nonsense of just being out at gay bars or gay pride festivals. Being out is a 365-day-a-year commitment and we need to show the world we are healthy, happy and productive individuals.

I am very disturbed with statements I hear from gay men who feel fighting for the right to dance is silly or that gay men should not attend male strip shows at mainstream nightclubs; that we should only be "gay" at gay businesses. I have been told that gays dancing at Disneyland is not "appropriate," especially because of the "family atmosphere." These comments, which come from non-gay and gay people, only give me more energy and vigor to continue fighting all types of discrimination.

I believe this quote from the *Wizard of Oz* says it best: "Come out, come out, wherever you are."

Please feel free to write me at 35-250 Date Palm Drive, Suite 260, Cathedral City, California 92234.

Andrew Exler has spent the last ten years in and out of court fighting for civil rights in employment, housing, and public accommodations. He currently has two sex-discrimination lawsuits pending for being denied entrance into male strip shows, including the famed Chippendales nightclub in Los Angeles. He works as a paralegal and resides in Palm Springs.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR CLASS SUPPLEMENT

GCN has extended the deadline for submissions to our supplement on class politics and lesbian/gay communities to January 8, 1989. So there's still time to contribute articles, journal entries, poems, plays, short fiction, essays, interviews, etc. We especially encourage contributions by people who come from working class backgrounds, and articles that look at the links between class and race.

Suggested topics include upward mobility/"class betrayal"; the intersections between class and race; effects of class on health; stereotypes of high class status of Jewish people and Asians; working class gay men and lesbians alienated from dominant les/gay cultures; class bias in "gay rights"/single issue reform approach; butch-femme roles and class; effects of class on aging, aging on class; disabilities and class; non-traditional jobs for

women; coming out about having wealth; what's class, what's culture, what's race, what's gender — figuring it all out; class-based norms of beauty; regionalism and class; immigrant status and class; bar dykes; working class lesbian/gay cultures: do they exist; gentrification; relationships to the military and criminal 'justice' system; raising kids: who can do it; fighting homophobia in socialist or other class-conscious organizing; working class lesbian/gay literature; lesbian/gay labor organizing; class and safe sex; les/gay visions of a class-free society.

Articles should be no longer than ten, typed, double-spaced pages. For more information, contact Stephanie Poggi, Features Editrix, at GCN, 617-426-4469. Feel free to call to talk over ideas!



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Passage

Continued from page 3

ing room I wouldn't have had otherwise."

Because the case was settled out of court, no legal precedent was established. Nonetheless, constantly stretching the outer bounds of gay rights law is vital, says GLAD's Cathcart, since little case law currently exists. "Legislation is only as good as the court decisions it brings about. Good cases need to be pushed through the court system."

Closer to home, on the other hand, Boston's Human Rights Commission (HRC), which investigates discrimination charges in the areas of employment and public accommodations, spent almost half its time on gay-related cases. According to HRC Director Jim Williams, more than 70 of the 160 cases that have come before the HRC in the last year dealt with sexual orientation.

While the HRC cannot impose fines against employers, it can move more quickly than the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Interestingly, many complainants seek sensitivity training for homophobic employers rather than pursuing more punitive results. The only punishment the HRC can mete out is recommending that city-issued licenses or contracts be revoked.

Rather than reducing their case load, Williams expects the bill's passage to encourage more gay men and lesbians to bring their charges of discrimination to the HRC, since one anti-discrimination statute tends to reinforce rather than detract from others.

The MCAD dilemma

Ultimately though, the soft underbelly of the gay rights law does not rest with its wording, the limited protection it offers or its possible repeal via referendum. Rather, it could be a victim of timing.

A year after Michael Dukakis was told by the U.S. electorate to stop promoting the "Massachusetts Miracle," his state is facing its worst financial crisis in a decade. Along with every other state agency, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) — which investigates and enforces the state's anti-discrimination statute — has suffered cutbacks and anticipates more.

"We have experienced a five percent cut in staff, including two people who process cases," MCAD's Terry Morris told GCN. "Outreach is the first thing to go... Now,

we just have to receive the cases as they come in. This is not a good time for anyone to avail themselves of state services."

This assessment is being acknowledged in the gay and lesbian community as well. "It took us 17 years, and we get the law the year the state is falling apart," said Cathcart. "MCAD is not in a position to handle a new category of protected people. It's going to make an impossible job even more impossible."

As with social service cuts in general, the impact of state retrenchment will fall disproportionately against poor lesbians and gay men, who may lack the resources to retain a private attorney or make their way unaided through the bureaucratic tangle.

For years, radicals have bemoaned the switch in terminology (and goals) from gay/lesbian liberation to gay/lesbian rights. The 17-year struggle just to get a piece of gay/lesbian rights legislation passed shows how far we still have to go to achieve gay/lesbian liberation. But in the words of NGLTF's Sue Hyde, "There are gay people who carry a vision of social change in which we have a day-into-night transformation. But this kind of incremental social change really fits the reality of how society changes."

"I would rather see an imperfect gay rights bill in Massachusetts, where people elsewhere can share in the victory. This movement doesn't win very often, so we should claim it." □

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Dykes to watch out for



Smashing the Cult of the Victim

Overcoming Isolation in Words

At the End of a Crisis Decade, People with AIDS and ARC Reflect on PWA Literature

Beep!
Beep!!
Beep!!!

By Kingston Beisheim

"BEEPI BEEPI BEEP! I wonder why I ever bought this damn watch. I never cared what time it was anyhow. Now I am tied to a four hour regimen. I just about forget the medications, the losses, the headaches; there's a moment of peace, quiet and tranquility. Then, "Beep! Beep! Beep!" It's AZT time, it's AZT time! I am beginning to hate the taste of the little blue pill. I suppose that it is all in my head. How I hate those pills. How I hate everything.

To the dismal cold freezer. Yet another small package of life. It looks like baby shit. I wish it tasted as good. "Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!" goes the blender. Such a drab color liquid. How I hate this liquid. Apple juice, grape juice, diet coke... Nothing helps this putrid mixture. I don't like eggs anyway. I certainly don't want them liquified.

"Here's to you!" The emulsion of health, the elixir of life, the toast of the town. Everything seems to be so amusing lately.

I wonder if this virus has hit my brain. I don't care if it has. How lovely to be crazy and not know it. I can be anyone and anywhere. I am... I am... I am bitter. God knows how bitter I've become. I've given until I can't give another piece of my dignity. But I'm alive!!!

Time for a cherry cordial, 2.75 ml. of cherry cordial. This concoction tastes so good, that I wonder if its actually beneficial. A handful of various vitamins. Ovals, jelly capsules, vitamin this, vitamin that. No wonder I'm losing weight. After this exciting meal, who could eat?

It's such a sunny day, except for the cloud...the dark cloud overhead. Waiting for the downpour, waiting, waiting. I guess now I am a lady-in-waiting. Maybe today I will be an oil tycoon. It seems that I have more gas than Iran and Exxon combined. I'd cry, except the salt in my tears is not on

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AIDS panic in prison

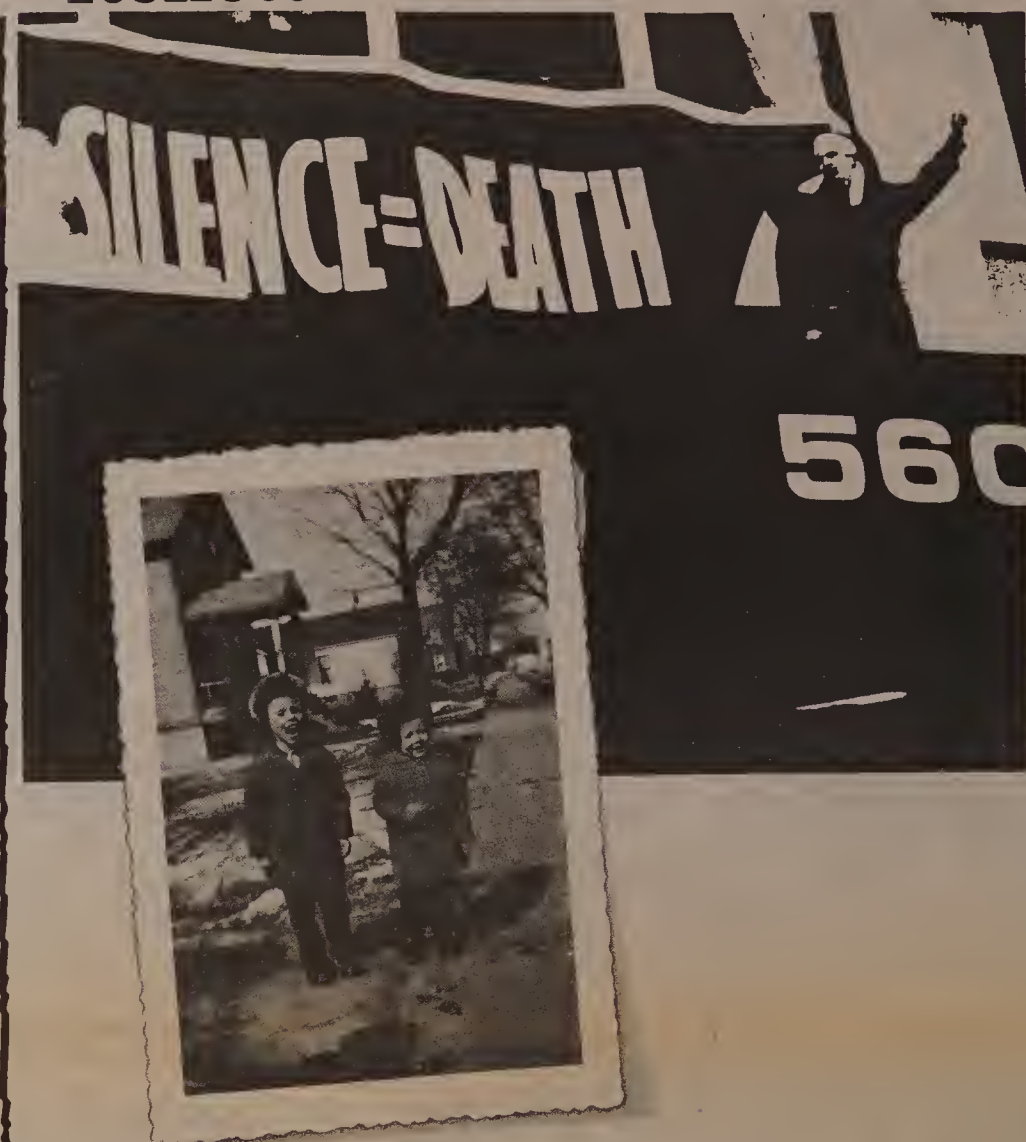
By Robert Olley

The worst thing about an article like this is that it needs to be written at all. It is 1987 and we are in the middle of a horrible epidemic, a number-one killer that destroys in many different ways. The most obvious way that AIDS destroys is through diminishing the immune system. Another more subtle way is through the spread of ignorance. Behind bars this fear has grown to higher proportions than out in the streets. People are living in close proximity to one another; there is less mobility and less accessibility to information and media.

In most prisons and jails across the country, prisoners with AIDS are shunned by other prisoners. In some instances, prisoners with AIDS have been treated as badly by other inmates as they have by some correctional officers and other staff. Unfortunately, AIDS seems to be another of those twists of fate that separate one person from another. In this article, I will not attempt to repeat the myriad of information that exists which shows that AIDS is not an easily communicable disease. I would like to approach this issue of fear and hatred from another angle: a human angle.

Fear has always been a by-product of the prison experience. Less conspicuously, however, it has always been a deliberate product. In order to keep control of a large

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A page from 'Your LIFE Story by Someone Else'

Have We Reached a New High in the Art of Self-Loathing?

Ferd Eggan's Tremendously Empowering New Book is a Rare Find in a Genre Obsessed with Punishment and Death

Poets for Life: Seventy-Six Poets Respond to AIDS

Edited by Michael Klein

With Essays by The Right Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., Joseph Papp, and Carol Muske
Crown Publishers, New York, 1989
\$18.95 cloth, 229pp.

Bloodstream

Joel Redon

Knights Press, Pound Ridge, N.Y., 1988
\$9.00 paper, 165pp.

Reviewed by Steve Rose

FROM THE MOMENT this ponderous pile of tomes was plopped into my lap, I had a feeling I was in for a great deal of boredom and irritation. "More AIDS books — just what we need," I sighed wearily as I set off to find a comfortable place to read and seethe, lugging the entire mess in my backpack like a big load of corpses. I was feverish and wan that day — like the dying faggots in my backpack. One of the books was huge — the most awful one. I kept the good one out — the one by Chicago activist Ferd Eggan — so as to peruse it on the subway. But the rest of it was dead weight: dropping T-cells, blurred vision, ugly mouth infections, apologist shame, death.

AIDS books are a big business now. Some of them are how-to books for rich gay men who do jet-set holistic therapies; others are

Epitaphs for the Living: Words and Images in the Time of AIDS

Photographs by Billy Howard

With an Introduction by Lonnie D. Kleiver
Southern Methodist University Press, Dallas, 1989
\$35.00 cloth, (coffee table size), 69pp.

Your LIFE Story by Someone Else

Ferd Eggan

Editorial Coqui, Chicago, 1989

\$10.00 paper, 92pp. (plus color-yourself radical fantasy poster)

written by PWAs themselves; others drone on endlessly about the obvious fascination with death, punishment, guilt, and repentance post-liberal America feeds dying queers without any critical analysis; almost all of them are boring; practically none of them are politically or medically current; and a very few of them are important or worth owning. Since, according to what these books tell me, I am dying (tick, tick, tick), I don't have time for all of it. But gay consumers, the vast majority of whom are healthy and have disposable income burning holes in their Calvins, love charming books, especially books that don't threaten Reagan-era gay middle-classdom. Hence: shelves and piles and backpacks full of mediocrity, fatalism, and — in increasingly

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Drama in Chelsea

By Max Navarre

Such a startling sensation, freedom of movement. Like other adults, I can pick and choose where I'll go and with whom, unconfined. No doctors, no nurses, no ersatz air coming from a blower beneath a window I can't open. I am once again available to collect ocean breezes and order out for Chinese food.

Two months is a long time to be in the hospital, though I heard about a man who'd been in the hospital seven months. My only question is HOW? Is he still sane?

No doubt about it, AIDS can make you crazy. I don't mean dementia — that blissful nightmare that leaves the people around you horrified, while you sit watching cartoons and messing yourself. I mean crazy crazy. In fact, just about everybody I know with AIDS is pretty crazy. Maybe they were batty to begin with.

As for me, my recent, endless, murderous, boring, hurtful illness has certainly loosened a few of my screws. Now that I'm getting "back on my feet," I'm noting more and more the level of my cuckoo-ness.

Prolonged, difficult illness has a profound effect on me. I feel very strange.

Oh, I'm confident that my current instability will pass. Sure that as my body revives, my mind will relax. I believe my incredible anxiety will lessen along with the pain in my gut. But, *this time*, it'll take more than the usual, post illness "where do we go from here." I've been set back on my heels before. This is more than that.

What happened to me was simply that my platelets disappeared with no warning. Those little guys that regulate the cellular fluid and keep one from bleeding to death just went away. This sudden, undiagnosable condition was treated very aggressively; and treated and treated with many different techniques, all to no avail. Still my platelet count remained minuscule and I sat there in the hospital, bleeding internally.

Everything seemed suddenly to be about my blood. Don't shave, they told me; don't

Continued on page 10

ARC

By By Ken Kruse

My problems began in the '70's — I guess about 1978. Recurrent episodes of swollen lymph nodes and sore throats led me to seek medical attention. I was told in 1978 I was immunosuppressed. That was long before anyone thought about AIDS. Since '78 it has been a merry-go-round of sickness: two bouts with hepatitis — both A and B; intermittent syphilis and gonorrhea infections; and colon problems diagnosed as colitis but never confirmed by tests.

Then in 1979 I developed a fistula. I was told surgery would be the answer. I think that may have been the beginning of the nightmare. The surgery never healed properly, subjecting me to periodic infections in the area of the fistula — both internal local infections and external ones. I was told I could not heal properly because I was immunosuppressed. Did anyone really question the suppression at the time? I still wonder.

Nine years of suffering with the unresolved fistula led me into the hospital about one and a half years ago suffering from "fevers of unknown origin." My fistula had abscessed and manifested a systemic infection. I was operated on under emergency conditions.

I'm still wondering! The fevers returned only nine months after surgery. This time, there was no abscess to blame. There was apparently no cause for my fevers, which at

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Wendy Bennet-Alder

It's Been a Hell of a Life. But I'm Still Here

A Lesbian with ARC Talks about a Groundbreaking Book on Women and AIDS, and about Her Own Survival over the Years

AIDS: The Women

Edited by Ines Rieder and Patricia Ruppelt
Cleis Press, Pittsburgh, Penn., 1988
\$9.95 paper, 251pp.

**Reviewed by Wendy Bennet-Alder
based on an interview with Stephanie Poggi**

I READ ALL THE way through this book and then put it down and acted as if I'd never read it. My buddy, who is a lesbian, saw the book on a shelf in a store. She picked it up and read the story in it about a lesbian with AIDS who chooses to commit suicide. And then she put the book back and said, "That's okay. I don't want to read this." So this book is really powerful, and originally when I was going to write this review, I wasn't ready to do it.

But reading it was so important, because there are so few of us out there talking about having AIDS, ARC or HIV. I really haven't talked to many other women and there aren't any support groups just for women in Boston. As a lesbian with ARC, I do have a lot of support from gay men. I love 'em and I think they're great, but I've missed hearing from other women, lesbians who can stand up and say, "Yes, I've slept with men or done needles" or whatever.

I know how hard it is to go public and I know that talking about this now means taking the chance of somebody shooting me down verbally, but hopefully, my doing it makes a difference. It definitely helps me. After being a drug addict for so long, it feels really good to me to give back to society. And when I tell people, the feedback that I get is that they're still there for me. My parents, who are both professional caregivers, are really supporting me. There's one story in here called "Going Public," about a Jewish woman, Tema Luft, who had a hard time with her family when she started letting more people know:

It all started when I wrote an article on AIDS for the *Jewish Times* — at that point [my mother] went off the deep end. Until last June I used to go to the synagogue with her, but she's begged me not to go there anymore since she's too embarrassed about me. I was invited to speak at another synagogue, and people from my old synagogue who were there asked me why I'd stopped coming....

Before I went public, my family was very nice to me. I spent a lot of time with them and they treated me well. Now that I have gone public they are rejecting me. I've gotten so much grief from my family you won't believe it....

But how can I stop telling people? Women have to be educated about AIDS issues.

We do have to get the education out and everybody should read *AIDS: The Women*. This book includes accounts from caregivers and AIDS educators, from family and lovers and friends of PWAs, and then there are all the stories of PWAs. There are straight women in here who got it from their boyfriends, women who got it from using needles, some who don't know from where. But it's everybody talking about everyday stuff. Some women in here were angry and some people — you could just tell — were not dealing with being sick. They're walking

through it and it'll hit them one of these days.

I like this book because it's not just "The FDA hasn't done this for me" — which you read so much about, and it's like, who cares? The people can get together to demand from those who hold the purse strings, and it makes a difference — but the FDA is not god. Get up off your ass and do some things for yourself. It's your life. I think people sometimes lose sight of living with AIDS day-to-day when they go off to fight the FDA.

Another thing that I really liked was the fact that this book is international. It has stories from Western Europe, Brazil, one each from Zimbabwe and the Philippines, in addition to stories from the U.S. that give so many different points of view.

It was particularly helpful for me to read about other people getting off drugs, because I've been an addict. There's a story called "Living with Substances" by a Viennese woman named Margaret. She was an IV drug user and she is HIV positive, and she's having a hard time with drug treatment for AIDS. She says, "I'm angry because again I'm depending on substances — this time medications — after I have gotten off the other substances." That's really hard. A lot of it is dealing with whether doctors know more than the people they're treating and you have to get your own education about what your body needs.

Some of the stories deal with women who have children, and they worry about what's going to happen to their kids if they get sicker, or die. "Just Getting By," by J.H., is about a woman with ARC who is living in a hotel with her young daughter in San Francisco's Tenderloin district. She says, "I need a real support group — some place where we can sit around and plan for our kids, our family needs, something to help us with our sickness. I want to work with people so others won't catch this shit." She can't work because she has ARC, but she can't get much money because she doesn't have AIDS. She gets \$460 a month and her rent is \$400. She's sick, but not sick enough? And she wants to give back to society — she's been an addict and she's been in jail and she's worried about her daughter.

I still work part-time and I go to school in art part-time, so I don't have financial problems at this point. Having been through the welfare system in New York City, I know it's a pain, but if I have to, I would go on welfare again. At one point I thought, "I've been there before, I don't want to do it again. I worked my way out of that." But I'm not going back on the streets, that's for sure. After I left an abusive relationship with a woman who was also an addict and an alcoholic, I spent a month in the streets begging quarters and another month where I had a place to stay at night but had to be out all day.

Now I want to live as nicely as I can — I think that's fair. I've always lived really low financially so I don't miss a lot of things...sometimes I wish I had a car, which I've never had. It's exhausting to ride on

Continued on page 12

The Collected Wisdom of People Living with AIDS

"There Will Be Ups and Downs, and More Ups and Downs — If you Don't give up Hope"

Surviving and Thriving with AIDS (Vol. I): Hints for the newly diagnosed

Editor, Michael Callen

The People with AIDS Coalition, New York, 1987

Surviving and Thriving with AIDS (Vol. II): Collected Wisdom

Editor, Michael Callen

The People with AIDS Coalition, New York, 1988

(Both volumes are available only from the PWA Coalition and are free to prisoners with ARC or AIDS. People with ARC or AIDS outside of prison can also write the Coalition for a free copy. Paid copies are \$10.40 for Vol. I and \$21.75 for Vol. II. Send to PWAC, 31 West 26th St., fifth floor, New York, NY 10010, or call 212/532-0290.)

Reviewed by Mike Riegle

IN THE MEDIA practically everyone's a victim... Victims sell newspapers. Does anyone consider the effect of this cult of the victim? Does anyone realize the power of the message, "You are helpless. There's no hope for you."?" Max Navarre raised this question while he was editor of the People With AIDS Coalition *Newsline*, published in New York. A principal thrust of much of AIDS activism has been to overcome this passive victim mentality, and as an "AIDS community" has developed over the past several years, the Coalition *Newsline* has thoughtfully and movingly nurtured a deep respect for an active (non-passive) response, both individually and socially; a sense of the incredible diversity of effects AIDS is having on different people; and the importance, therefore, of taking seriously the concrete experiences of PWAs, rather than listening simply to the medical and governmental bureaucracies as they drag their feet, hemming and hawing their various theories out of ignorance and bigotry.

An issue of the *Newsline* is likely to have several lively letters to the editor from PWAs/PWArCs/HIV positive people and their friends, a special section of informa-

lections bring home — much more clearly than each single issue of the *Newsline* — how diverse and "active" this "AIDS community" is. (An anarchist like myself is heartened to see all the AIDS organizing that's gone on outside of (in spite of!) the government/medical hierarchy.)

"You hold in your hands," says Callen in the introduction to the first volume,

the legacy of many who have gone before you. It represents the collected wisdom of about six years of struggle against a deadly, stubborn enemy: AIDS. A majority of the contributors to this guide for the newly diagnosed are PWAs or PWArCs. They speak with immediateness and directness about their own experiences.... The overarching principles which resonate throughout these essays are these: AIDS need not be a death sentence. There is life after diagnosis. We must fight to retain as much control over our lives as possible.

Hints for the Newly Diagnosed, volume one, opens with a course in AIDS 101, question and answer format: What should I take? What about experimental treatments? But I've heard such good things about AZT, why are you [Callen] so negative? (Callen believes AIDS is a "multifactorial disease," meaning that it is not a simple matter of being infected with HIV. Thus, he believes that AZT, which is specifically aimed at HIV, is not only toxic but often totally useless besides. As a person on AZT, dealing with this view was the hardest part of reading *Surviving and Thriving*, although I have to admit that Callen's editing allows for plenty of voices in favor of taking the drug. AZT is a mixed bag, by any account.) What exactly is prophylaxis? What should I look for in a doctor? What about insurance, disability, money problems? How long can I expect to live? WHAT ABOUT SEX? (Fortunately Callen's view is that sex is an important part of our humanity; not like, say, cigarette smoking, "a vice which one could live without.")

Some of the groups of topics included are: "So, you've just been diagnosed with AIDS," "Emotional responses to AIDS," "Treating opportunistic infections and AIDS itself," "Alternative approaches to



Founding members of the PWA Coalition of New York (L-R): Max Navarre, Michael Hirsch, Mi Calvert, Griff Gold, Joseph Foulon, and (center) Michael Callen

tion and letters from prisoners, news about treatment trials and developments, some "memorial" statements/reminiscences/poems by friends and lovers, some feature essays on the economics and the politics of AIDS, and a resource directory for the New York metropolitan area.

Michael Callen (would-be yenta and "Flirtations" chanteuse), Jane Rosett and others have now collected many of these pieces from past issues of the *Newsline*, and added other new pieces to form two volumes of *Surviving and Thriving with AIDS*. The first is subtitled "Hints for the Newly Diagnosed," and the second is the "Collected Wisdom."

I am a *Newsline* junkie, have been for a couple of years now. When my copy arrives (or rather when the box of 25 copies arrives at GCN, generously offered to our Prisoner Project each month for distribution to prisoners), I stop whatever I'm doing and read it; if not word for word, practically so. Still, it was a unique experience for me to read *Surviving and Thriving* because the two col-

healing," "AIDS and sex, love and friendship," "Telling family and friends," "AIDS from an African-American perspective," "Children with AIDS," "AIDS and IV drug use," and "AIDS in prison." I admit that I have been very pleased with the Coalition's willingness to make prisoners visible in their work, unlike not only much of the AIDS service network, but also much of the gay/lesbian community.

Volume II is a larger, more up-to-date version of many of the same issues. Packed with "hints" and "tips," it fairly smacks of how much we are still dependent on each other's experience, while the medical profession tries to find the more general characteristics of the sickness and the treatments. For example, you'll find here that sometimes, instead of swallowing your acyclovir tab, you can break it open and spread it on your tongue so that it can deal with both thrush and the hairy leukoplakia in your mouth. Pharmacies and doctors aren't generally of-

Continued on page 12

Beep!

Continued from centerspread
my diet.

My head aches. It must all be in my head, ha ha! At least I can appreciate my own humor.

Humor, rumor, tumor.... It all comes back. I didn't even get the four hours to forget. I don't ever want to forget. I need my memory. I need to remember. A great gift, memory. I was so handsome, so energetic, so human. But I'm still alive!

To my sisters, I salute you. To my brothers, I salute you. What a parade! I would check my social calendar if it didn't involve the time aspect. Day in, day out, day May, May day, being gay and I'm back to reality again.

A touch of cream to ease rough spots. So many rough spots. I wonder if this tube will last the week. I wonder if I will last the week.

Yes, I will. I have to. I must. I am part of this grand play. I'm a leading character. A grand geisha with sashes and big eyelashes and...rashes.

Back to reality. So...what happens now? Dinner? Lunch? Does anyone really care what time it is?

"BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!" It's AZT time! It's AZT time!

I do. □

Reprinted from *Surviving and Thriving*, Vol. II: Collected Wisdom

AIDS panic

Continued from centerspread

group of people, a smaller group must build more than bars and cells. Fear and prejudice have always been the main tools used in keeping people apart. Unfortunately, prison history shows a lot of violence between inmates: black vs. white, black vs. hispanic, straight vs. gay — one population vs. another population. We sometimes provide those in control with the weapons and the means to destroy our unity. Our own fears are fed back to us by others. This is not to say that all our fears are somebody else's responsibility. Many actions are caused by our own fears. When fear takes over, our human senses are subject to a syndrome that leads to ignorance and defeat. Ignorance and fear are an immune deficiency syndrome of the human spirit.

AIDS is not a gay disease. AIDS is not a black disease. AIDS is not a junkie disease. AIDS is a virus that travels a blood route. This blood route opportunistically spreads through several high risk populations. Leave the moralistic judgments to those who are foolish enough to make them. If god wanted to get even with "bad people" then a disease would develop among slum lords, crooked politicians and others who take the lives of innocent people every day. God does not "teach" or "get even" by torturing drug users, leveling third world countries with earthquakes, or keeping people poor.

Unfortunately, the people most affected by this health crisis are the ones who hold the least status in our society: gay people, black and hispanic peoples and drug addicts. Despite the high and ever increasing death and misery that AIDS has created, government and public response have still not risen to the challenge. Is it unrealistic to suspect that this has something to do with the populations most affected?

The above is reprinted from Surviving and Thriving, Vol. II, and first appeared in the Consortium on Prisoner Education Newsletter. The author is coordinator of The New York City Prison Family.

Drama

Continued from centerspread

fall down; don't hit your head or you'll be dead in two minutes. Losing blood, smelling blood, tasting blood, everything that came out of me seemingly bloody. That smell, on my clothes, in my bed, my hair, getting transfusion after transfusion.

The fear was harrowing. And the tedium of the uncertainty. How can something so nerve-racking be so incredibly boring? come on body, explode or don't.

When the subject of surgery was first raised, I was adamant. Being holistically inclined, I felt that surgery, particularly the removal of an organ, would be a betrayal of my body. When parts of the body dysfunction, you nurture them back to wellness. You don't fire them and chuck them in the garbage, go you?

As the weeks of useless treatment droned on, I really thought I was losing it. By then, I was ready to do anything to have my ridicu-

lous, seemingly insoluble ordeal come to an end. In short, I didn't care if they cut my head off, much less remove my spleen.

I didn't want narcotics after the operation. I had a long history of substance abuse and I didn't want to fight that battle again. But as soon as the anesthetic wore off and the pain rolled in, my resolve folded; anything, give me anything.

What I got was morphine. It was powerful and knocked me on my ear.

The attraction in drug addiction is the checking out, the opportunity to have your head go somewhere else. Distraction. Morphine sure distracted me. It sent me away: no hospital, no fear, no pain, just dreams filled with imagery.

Over the years, I've learned to hate the distraction of drugs. I've learned to crave the here and now, instead of the somewhere else of being high. On the one hand, I hated the high; it scared me. But such visions I was having, such dreams. The sweetness of it all told me that I could stay that way forever.

But I knew I couldn't, wouldn't. I felt safe because I knew it was temporary, knew I only needed it for the pain. But I *wanted* it and wanting it made me a different person.

Within three days, the two people closest to me were complaining of a complete personality change in me. I was hateful and impatient. I was always waiting for a shot.

They got me off morphine in a week. Then, cured and once again lousy with platelets, I was released from the hospital.

The change in me lingered. The drug had brought to a head two months of frustration and fear.

I was still having a lot of pain, so I was given percodan. The first thing I did when I was alone was pour the pills out on the bed. Twenty-one: was that enough? Would twenty-one percodan do it?

I thought of my friends and how pissed off they'd be if I offed myself. How would my doctor feel after two years of patching up my baggy old body?

Then something real came up in me and I had to laugh. It was all so Judy Garland. I didn't want to die. Why the two-year struggle with AIDS, why the Herculean efforts to stay alive, if I were to flush it all down the toilet with twenty-one percodan? Did I want to live if it meant feeling the way I felt, facing who knew what in the future? YESSSSS INDEED!

I remember once in Malibu ten years ago when, in jobless, loveless despair I turned on all the gas jets. I lay there, a tragic waste at twenty-four. Suddenly, I remembered the cat and her litter of kittens, which were somewhere in a closet. I thought of Tempe and Mrs. Cohen, the dogs. The idea of rounding them all up and getting them outside so they wouldn't go with me was enough to put me off suicide.

The percodan moment was similar. When the chips are down, I really want to stay alive. If I'd wanted to die, I'd have thrown in the towel months ago. But here I am, crazy or not, spleenless or not, back in my life and making plans. If heaven wants me, they're going to have to drag me out of here kicking and screaming. AIDS and an uncertain future notwithstanding. □

Reprinted from *Surviving and Thriving*, Vol. II: Collected Wisdom

ARC

Continued from centerspread

times approached 105 degrees. Nothing but an HIV positive test result and compromised T-cell ratios. They were low, very low. My physicians recommended I start AZT. I wanted to die. I wrestled with denial and fear, agreed to the AZT therapy and the day after starting AZT, the fevers (which had been present on and off for more than one year) disappeared.

I have my share of rashes, funguses and dermatitis. My doctors have recently seen KS lesions — on my feet and hands, of all places. I have learned to FIGHT! FIGHT WE MUST. We cannot give in. I am afraid. I am angry. Where the fuck was the research in the late '70s and early '80s? How could a person just be immunosuppressed, without cause, for 10 years, and have that accepted?

Every day has become an adventure. I know it may seem strange, but somehow I feel that my experiences of the last 10 years, suffering with ARC, before it had a name, have enlightened me. The medical people are *not* God. I am angry about my predicament and no one seems to have an answer.

Very often I just want to run and hide, to retreat into my own depression. Then the *Newsline* comes to me, reminding me that I am not alone.

I hope this story can help someone who is suffering with ARC. □

Reprinted from *Surviving and Thriving*, Vol. II: Collected Wisdom

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Self-Loathing

Continued from centerspread
frightening amounts — self-hatred.

Poets for Life is a quiet, careful collection of poems on AIDS, many of them by esteemed writers, nicely packaged with concern and sophistication. Michael Klein deserves credit for assembling an impressive array of talent: Paul Monette, Adrienne Rich, Felice Picano, Arnie Kantrowitz, June Jordan, and Allen Ginsberg (who unsanitizes — and politicizes — with his funny poem “Sphincter,” about his asshole.) In addition, the warm introduction by my friend Paul Moore, and the inclusion of his daughter Honor’s “Memoir” (namesake poem of her new anthology) made me feel somewhat welcome inside this book. But *Poets for Life* still misses the mark. Clean-as-a-whistle, air-conditioned like a new silver Volvo, this collection is high on style, short on humanity, and vacant when it comes to the politics of AIDS, homophobia, racism, and economics. Straight liberals will love it — and gay men in tweed sportcoats will love it even more *because* straight liberals do. Poems with titles like “Whole Lives Missing” and “Waiting to Die” and “In Time of Plague” work well with tweeds these days. No doubt, Kubler-Ross snatched up the first copy.

Bloodstream, a novel by Joel Redon, a gay man with AIDS, would thrill Kubler-Ross even more, but since the writer speaks from real experience, he should be accorded some respect. I found nothing remotely similar to my own experience as a PWA, but fear that *most* affluent, white male PWAs will identify. In this story, a guilt-ridden preppy named Peter has group psychotherapy, laments his old, sleazy ways, talks a great deal with mother, interacts with another PWA named Yale — yes, *Yale* — purges himself of wickedness (i.e. alcohol), whimpers and prays to a God that hates and betrays him, and never, ever attends an ACT UP demonstration. He does manage to tell his doctor that “the FDA is full of shit” at one point. He even mentions Peptide-T and AL721, but focuses what precious little empowerment he has on getting antabuse, a drug that prohibits the user from drinking by making him violently ill (figures). Washed up, passive, tired, so saturated with self-loathing he drips, Peter ends up gazing dewey-eyed with doom at Christmas candles with mom at the end of the book. What’s the point? If it is simply to capture a slice of life during the AIDS crisis — the experience of a middle-class gay man who goes home to his family to die — this story does it. One would *hope* it means to say that this sordid mess must change — that gay men with AIDS must get over their “internalized homophobia.” But it appears that is not the case.

As if all of this wretchedly excessive death-and-dying wasn’t enough, the printing presses have *outdone* themselves with what could be the most ambitious AIDS coffee table item ever. The book in question is destined to be even more popular than the Quilt book, in which the people are all conveniently and safely dead as doornails, because this one has the PWAs *writing their own epitaphs!* “IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS,” summed up a fellow activist writer. Creepy, and frightening, *Epitaphs for the Living* is the full flowering of *self-assisted genocide*.

A gargantuan object, the book looms, scowls, overtakes you as you look at the larger-than-life (or, rather, *death*) images. *Epitaphs* is seductive in its eerie loneliness; the black and white photographs are beautifully made — but strangely voyeuristic. The dying seem remote, otherworldly, even as messages in their own handwriting speak to us directly. Though not all of the subjects refer to themselves as “dying,” the authors certainly see them that way, even if doing so with “affirmation of life,” as Lonnie D. Kleiver’s introduction puts it. Clearly, it is “acquiescence to death” that fascinates the book’s creators and, it is hoped, their readers. The introduction contains the usual lament that ours is a society that overly “denies” death and that these dying people have much to teach us about accepting it. A handy way to make disposing of fags and junkies elegant, even fascinating, and certainly lucrative, at \$35.00 per glossy copy!

The ghoulish delight with death espoused by *Epitaphs* should come as no surprise: the book comes to us from the Southern Methodist University, where Lonnie D. Kleiver is a “professor of religious studies.” Billy Howard, the photographer, is director of university photography at Emory University. If these folks had *any* good intentions in mind, it is hard to see them; perhaps they thought that by creating tear-jerking images

of pitiful creatures, people with AIDS might garner *some* mercy. (No thanks.) It all comes across as the most gratuitous, blatantly AIDS-phobic extravaganza of fag-bashing since the *Hardwick* decision. Burn this one with your American flag.

With all of this sadness, mediocrity and outright “die, faggot, die!” going on, one might think it isn’t safe to step into a bookshop, but wait — there is hope on the horizon. Enter Ferd Eggan, a gifted, multi-faceted activist and writer from Chicago, who has given us what may be one of the most important books by a gay writer of our time — most certainly the most important book of the year: *Your LIFE Story by Someone Else*. Bursting with anger, transcending the boundaries of “gay” and “AIDS” writing, buzzing with color and activity, here is work that is radical in its timeliness. It is the standard-bearer in AIDS activist circles, taking up where Douglas Crimp’s *AIDS: Cultural Activism, Cultural Analysis* left off. But *LIFE* is more: it “isn’t an AIDS book,” says the author, who is openly HIV-positive but too busy with his solidarity work with the Puerto Rican community of Chicago and with ACT UP/ACT NOW to be “dying.”

“It’s a book about *you*,” he says, stressing that the reader allow the poems and stories, collaborated on by a group of local graphic artists, to become personal. Eggan has found that the always-changing place where the personal and political intersect, where issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, politics, economics all have relevance. Of particular richness is his use of personal reminiscences — of a Midwestern childhood, of doing civil rights work as a white man in the South in the 1960s and an erotic interlude early in life with a Black man, of travels in South America — and the marvelous interplay between reality and fantasy. *Your LIFE Story by Someone Else* is an anthology, a collection — that careens and collides within itself, tied together inventively by wonderful, playful colors and images (some of them even move: in this book, a pink triangle flies through the air and decapitates the U.S. Capitol right before your very eyes). Eggan challenges racism, celebrates and unravels the mysteries of interracial sexuality, becomes child-like and vulnerable, powerful, enraged, humble, and yet does so by “letting the language use me, rather than using the language,” so that he never seems self-obsessed. After all, this is *your* life story. This book is friendly, but not polite; disturbing, but not at all hopeless as it describes the oppression we face in a homophobic, racist, classist society.

There are poems here for Genet and de Beauvoir, stories of Caribbean pirates freeing slave ships, images of the KKK running riot in the streets of Chicago, and a tribute to social worker Andrew Goodman, murdered by racists in Mississippi in the ‘60s. And yes, there are musings about the closeness of death and danger — attributable, as they should be, to a hateful government, rather than a mythical disease or to ourselves as punishment for past lives. As the book’s frontispiece says, “what we need now...is dedication.” Ferd Eggan gives us not only dedication, but liberation in *Your LIFE Story by Someone Else*. It’s the best “AIDS book” around because it is about liberation and empowerment: a marvelous affirmation of *life* in the midst of a maelstrom of oppression and death. This is required reading at the end of the decade, because it carries a message of struggle, change and hope.

Eggan’s hope — and his post-Marxist, multi-cultural brand of activism — is not without context in the traditions of creativity and radical activism carried on by many since the ‘60s. But his self-empowering view represents a phenomenon new to the AIDS decade. By and large, writing and organizing around AIDS remain entrenched in a mode that views death as a poignant and inevitable punishment for sex, sees doctors and psychotherapists as demi-gods of the “repent — and die anyway” school, and, most tragically, sets people with AIDS apart as dark, decrepit — and lonely — angels of death. One wonders where the artistic celebrations of struggle we so desperately need will come from — or if our art, like that of the ancient Egyptians, will be handed down to posterity as a collection of funeral monuments, tragedies and epitaphs. That our epitaphs are being written before we are even buried is a foreboding symbol of the times.

Worse, this orgy of obsessive fascination with punishment and death speaks of denial — denial not of death, but of life. Interestingly, this dark genre comes out of the same

Continued on page 12

Self-Loathing

Continued from page 11

ranks who accused us at the onset of the AIDS epidemic of unreasonable denial about AIDS and death. We now face the arduous task of replacing “fact” with “mythology” so that our art reflects and acknowledges real progress on the AIDS battleground: progress towards longevity, brought about not only by treatment advances, but by those much touted increases in self-esteem. The question that comes to mind is an amusing one. Rather than answering repeatedly, redundantly, how we might react to a fatal disease, we need to be answering the question facing us as a new decade begins: “What if they gave a plague and everybody started refusing to die from it?” □

AIDS: The Women

Continued from centerspread

buses and trains and hard to depend on other people. I’ve been independent all my life, so it’s hard that I can’t just take a bus to New York to see my granddaughter because I don’t feel well enough. And as I lose the ability to go up stairs the way I used to, I know I’m not going to be able to get that energy back. I’ve got to accept that. If I ignore it, I get sick because I push myself too much.

Other stories in here that were very important to me were the ones about dealing with dying and death. Kate Scannell, who is a doctor, wrote a piece called “Skills and Pills.” She has all her skills with needles and tubes and she’s dealing with this one guy with AIDS who is in really bad shape. He keeps asking her for help and she keeps trying all these different procedures. And suddenly she realizes that what he means by help is just to be given some morphine and said goodbye to.

There’s another story called “Being Positive is Positive,” by a woman named Elisabeth living in Berlin. She eventually helps start a group for women with AIDS that sounds really great, but she says she felt “doomed,” when she first tested positive for HIV.

After receiving my test results...my life became a nightmare from which I could escape only by sleeping and having nice dreams, only to wake to the horrors of reality.... Confronting dying and death is probably the most difficult part of dealing with AIDS.

I think you have to confront death and then figure out what you’re going to do. The way I look at it, it’s down the road and the road is going to be shorter than I expected. But I still try to live my life. After all, despite everything I’ve been through, I’m still here. I’m 40 now. I’ve raised two kids. I’ve been an addict. In high school as a senior when abortion was illegal I was an unwed mother and gave up my son. (And no, I don’t know if it hurts because I’m not dealing with it. In this society, you can say you adopted a child, you can say you had an abortion, but who’s going to say they gave away a child?)

Anyway, I’ve done a lot of things that women do and that society looks down their nose at. But I’m standing up saying, “Yeah, and I don’t hate myself.” I’ve lived a pretty full life and I’m okay about it.

If I knock myself all the time I won’t be able to fulfill the things I’ve set up for myself to have a place of respect in society. And sometimes, still, I don’t know where the courage came to survive everything I did. When I left New York about six years ago, I was pretty much on my own. My younger daughter had moved out when I was doing drugs because she couldn’t stand to see me getting beaten up by this woman I was with. (Getting beaten up wasn’t where I thought I would be at that point in my life — I had gotten myself out of a mentally and physically abusive relationship with my husband. I figured I was okay.)

Eventually I got out of my relationship with this woman, and that’s when I came to Boston where I have two sisters and a brother. My sisters helped me a lot. At the time, I was looking for Al-Anon and Narc-Anon meetings because I had been with all these addicts. I had my own scars from shooting up, but my head was telling me I just *hung out* with these people. It took me a couple of weeks to get in [12-step] program for myself. Then I had to get a job, a place to live, figure out who I was and get on with it. And that’s what I did.

Only to get knocked over the head again, and knocked to my knees again — by this virus. It’s been a hell of a life, but as I said, I’m still here. So I might as well do something with it.

I think people who get to know women with this virus are getting a gift — to know

someone who is able to stick around and deal with something as horrible as this is. People who walk in the other direction are losing something.

I do have to deal with the fact that my kids haven’t been able to come visit me since I left New York — my older daughter earns a lot of money, but whatever we haven’t worked out, she hasn’t been able to get herself up here. I’ve told them both, when I graduate from school next spring, they will be here. I can do *that*. After having them watch me do all the horrible stuff, I want them to watch me do something I’m proud of, and they’re proud of.

I’ve spent so many years being invisible, but in these last years I’ve gotten out and said, “This is who I am and this is what’s happening to me.” And that’s what the women in this book are doing.

The last thing I want to say is that there’s still so much shit out there about AIDS that has to be dealt with. AIDS puts it all together. I think about the issue of the kids who’ve been sexually abused who are getting AIDS that way. When are people going to start talking about that? — that’s got to come up, too. □

Wendy Bennet-Alder is a lesbian living in the Boston area. She was diagnosed with ARC two and a half years ago. She is a fiber artist and is a volunteer with the Boston AIDS Action Committee’s speakers’ bureau. She talked about living with ARC in GCN’s premiere of the PWA Journals, April 9, 1989.

Surviving/Thriving

Continued from centerspread

fering tips like this yet.

In one of the volume’s many interviews with Black and Latino PWAs, we learn that the famous “purple spots” that we associate with KS are only purple if you’re white. One man’s diagnosis of KS was later than it would have been if he’d known that those dark brown spots he’d had for a while were KS lesions as they appear on brown-skinned people.

These interviews explore feelings about accessibility of health care generally, as well as accessibility of AIDS service organizations, to people of color; allow each person to offer their own advice to someone who’d “just been diagnosed 15 minutes ago”; and explore the differences in people’s sex lives, before and after diagnosis.

Some of the craziness (and loneliness) many of us may have felt after diagnosis is surely related to how we felt growing up queer, thinking we were the “only one.” It’s comforting, a little, to hear all these voices, different voices, different experiences, arguing, encouraging: being “community” (or “family”) in a way. It’s also a pleasure to see all those photographs of PWAs and their friends, and the cartoons and humor, thickly spread throughout. Jane Rosett, a photographer and “feisty” lesbian who’s been at the Coalition from the beginning, deserves much of the credit for this emphasis on the importance of images.

Rosett describes “survivor’s guilt” as a “non-PWA in the PWA movement,” and in Volume II writes, “We who live and continue to breathe as AIDS continues its ruthless killing, cannot stand it. So much death drives us insane. It is crazy-making. Death makes us go crazy....” As does the prospect of death. And so the value for me of the counsel I got from a PWA friend of mine (who’d been through quite a lot) when I told him I’d been diagnosed with ARC. He said, “One thing you have to remember. It’s not all downhill from here. There’ll be ups and downs, and more ups and downs; if you don’t give up hope.” *Surviving and Thriving* bears stunning witness to this truth. □

The PWA Coalition Newsline, which comes out monthly, is free to prisoners with AIDS or ARC, and to people with AIDS or ARC outside prison. Paid copies are \$35/year; see address above.

A new PWA Coalition quarterly publication for and about Spanish-speaking people with AIDS, ARC, and HIV is called SIDAhora. It is a bilingual compilation of articles, interviews, letters, poems, and artwork representing diverse Latino/Hispanic perspectives of AIDS. The PWA Coalition urges all Latino/Hispanic people with AIDS, as well as those who work within the communities, to contribute their stories and artwork to SIDAhora. This publication is also free to prisoners with ARC and AIDS and to people with AIDS or ARC on the outside. Paid copies are \$20/year; contact Jane Rosett at the address above.

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WOMEN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; single issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS

The sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 49 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$28/year sub/\$6 single issue. **ON OUR BACKS**, 526 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114(ex)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. **THE WOMEN'S REVIEW**, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of *Black/Out* now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to **BLACK/OUT**, c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE GAY COMMUNITY SINCE 1973 Accommodations, AA groups, bars, baths, bookstores, businesses, counselors, dentists, doctors, hotels, lawyers, mail order, media, publications, organizations, religious groups, services, social groups, switchboards, therapists, travel agents, etc. . etc. . etc (area codes and zip codes too!)

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Renaissance House, Box 292GCN Village Station, NY, NY 10014 212-674-0120. All books discreetly by first class mail, your name kept strictly confidential. To list a business or organization, or for further information, send stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope. Please contact us for prices outside the USA. In Canada, order from Glad Day Books, 598 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 123 416-961-4161 (check for prices)

Ask us about Gayellow Pages on mailing labels!

BREAKTHROUGH!

Political journal of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Spring 1989 issue. Women of the Philippine Revolution — Interview with Makibaka; The Post-Feminist Mystique; speech by PISD (People with Immune System Disorders); Crack and Black Youth. \$3 including postage. John Brown Book Club, POB 1422, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Do you need facts about menopause? Does the stereotyping of older women make you angry? Do you want to be part of an Older Feminists Network? *Broomstick*, a bimonthly national magazine by, for and about women over forty. Annual subs (US funds only) U.S. \$15, Canada \$20, Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sliding scale available. Sample copy \$3.50. 3543 18 St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110.

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$12 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

P U B L I C A T I O N S

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub. \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114.

O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 523-7363 for info. (15.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE

AIDS

AIDS abuse problem in Federal System?

The ACLU National Prison Project wants information about problems with AIDS in the Federal prison system. If you have some info, please send it to: Judy Greenspan, **ACLU National Prison Project, 1616 P St NW, Washington DC 20036.**

AIDS & PRISONS

Free booklet available by writing to: ACLU National Prison Project, 1616 P St NW, Washington DC 20036.

Prisoners AIDS Awareness Project in Indiana needs more educational material about AIDS. If you or your organization can help out, please write Billy Cates, 864126, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

TV/TS Legal help!

I have been out a year and have started an organization to help prisoners, especially TV/TS prisoners, with their legal cases. I'm studying to be a paralegal. Write me and let's see if I can help you out in some way. David Adams, 5219 Tahoe Tr. No.202, Austin TX 78745.

Gay man would like someone to right to. I like rock & roll, skating, and outside activities. Please write Glen JOHNSON, 159041, Box 7 (3-C-867), Moberly MO 65270.

Calling KANSAS CITY!!

Upon release next year I want to help with some type of half way house for PWAs. I will need employment and living plans to please the parole board here. I would like to hear from anyone in the KC area that might be able to help. Leroy WINTERS, 424450, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.

GM seeking true friendships and possible relationship. I'll be free in 1990. Will answer all. Michael WILLIAMS, 515933, Box 75851, Lovelady TX 75851.

Prisoner wanting friendship. Love writing, music, poetry and drawing. Michael ALLEN, 162077, Box 56, Lebanon OH 45036.

I don't make friends too easy but I get along well with gay people, and I am attracted to them. Please add my name to your penpal list. Race not important. Donald KIRKPATRICK, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887

GM, 34, Black, looking for companionship with other gays, TSs, TVs. I need a friend to write to. Age and color don't make a difference. Glenn FORD, 107529, Camp D Eagle 2, LA State Prison, Angola LA 70712.

I'm a gay male, 30 yrs old, (Black), and would like to correspond with TS, TV or gay males. Please write. LEVY MATHIS, 86A 8394, Box 149, Attica NY 14011.

GM, 30 wishes to write others in the free world (including overseas!), Age & race unimportant. Michael RATHBONE, 33569, Box 2800, Lincoln NE 68502.

25 yrs young, with a void in my life, seeking an understanding person. Enjoy reading, writing, poetry, drawing, dancing, sports, movies. David ELLIS, 108712, Camp J Shark 4-R-14, LA State Prison, Angola LA 70712.

Dominant GM seeks passive/semi-passive GM for correspondence. Am 35, photo welcome but not necessary. Age is of no matter. No prisoners or fakes. Want a real person to share feelings with. Kevin KIGER, 35963, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Be Adventurous

GM, 28, very articulate and well read, interested in finding someone to write. Be adventurous, drop me a line. Ernest MACHADO, C-49830, 4BIR 64L, Box 3456, Corcoran CA 93212.

I'm a gay black male, 29, with a serious type mind, seeking a serious relationship with a black bisexual male who has a muscular built body. Please send picture. Ashley Von BUTTON, 79191, Box 100-E-12, Somers CT 06071.

M O V E R S

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236-1848



I would like a penpal. I'm 22, Black, like the outdoors, sports and candlelight dinners. My sign is Taurus. I don't play games. Shirelle HARDIN, 23107, 1479 Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040.



I am a gay male with a very slight build. I'm very effeminate with piercing blue eyes. I dream of hot nights with my black daddy. I will welcome all letters and will respond. Richard TOEPFER, 66733, Box 3100, Goodyear AZ 85338.

Dominant GBM top, 28, willing to write anyone who is willing to reach out and share themselves as I am willing to do the same. Hobbies are sports, working out, reading. Age & race makes no difference to me. Rodney CONLEY, 183-452, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I'm in prison for fighting a group of guys who came after my Puerto Rican lover and me with baseball bats. Studying to be a paralegal in here. I'm a former taxi driver and would love to have your paper and read some of the gay and race stuff that you send out. Would like to write someone out there too. Willie DANIELS, AS-1355, Drawer A, Old Rt 22, Cresson PA 16630.

S&M anyone? Kinky love letters!

I enjoy country, rock and soul music, being outdoors all the time, and would really like to write any gay male for a penpal and/or maybe even more. Plus any gay male who is into S&M and who enjoys writing sexy and kinky love letters. I cannot write to other prisoners, even though I would love to. Sorry, my fellow inmates. Kim M, MARK, 206094, Box 316, Ft. Madison IA 52672.

Lonely gay male seeking lasting friendship with the right person. Charles ROSE, 34512, Box 7, Moberly MO 65270.

Attention All Drag Queens! I'm a male, 48, interested in meeting and corresponding for friendship or more. Age and looks not important if you have the time to write. Please send SASE. Cecil D. BANKS, 156-779, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

GM, 30, seeking a friend-relationship so that I can get some help relocating upon my release next spring. I have a GED and experience in upholstery and brick laying. Give me a chance. I'm not a bad person. Please send SASE if possible. Benton COLLETT, 873183, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

GM, 28, beautiful eyes, seeks correspondence and future relationship with another gay or bisexual man. Would enjoy sincere and caring individual. No head games. Timothy HARRIS, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887.

I was born in Wash. DC, am 31, and quite naturally handsome in the face. My hobbies are martial arts, weightlifting, dancing, cooking, music (I play drums, bass and keyboards), but most of all I enjoy styling hair and make up on any and all people. Please write. Billy DeAngelo SHEAD, 362378, Rt 3 Box 59, Rosharon TX 77583.

I've been moved from Chillicothe and if any of you lonely hot ass TS want to write, do it. Paul DECKER, 185-353, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Calendar

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet, if possible. Listings must be typed.

11 Saturday

Boston □ **A Clean & Sober Dance** for the lesbian/gay community, sponsored by The Boston Sound Machine. At the Y, 140 Clarendon Street. 9pm-1am. \$\$.

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian & Gay Neighbors of J.P.** annual Fall Ball. First Church Unitarian Hall, 6 Eliot Street. 9pm-1am. \$8.

12 Sunday

Cambridge □ **Am Tikva** bowling benefit for Hospice Mission Hill. Lanes & Games, 195 Concord Turnpike. 12noon-3pm. \$15. 782-8894.

Boston □ **Peter Knott**, PWA artist, shows his work at Cafe Fritz for two weeks. Corner of Berkeley & Chandler. Opening is 5-7pm.

13 Monday

Cambridge □ **Benefit Reading** for the PEN Fund for Writers and Editors with AIDS featuring Mark Doty, Ron Schreiber and Jean Valentine. At the Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Mass. Ave. 8:15pm. \$10. 661-0785.

Boston □ **FCHC's Living Well Series**, Understanding Basic Nutrition with Lisa Stollman. 332 Newbury Street. 6-8pm. Paul or Robb, 267-0900 to pre-register.

14 Tuesday

Cambridge □ **Healing Service** for all affected by AIDS. First Church Congregational, Garden & Mason Streets. 7:30pm. 547-2724.

15 Wednesday

Boston □ **FCHC's Living Well Series**, Creating the Holidays You Want! with Rezakkah Norins. 332 Newbury Street. 6-7:30pm. Paul or Robb, 267-0900 to pre-register.

Boston □ **The Boston Living Center** Grand Opening at 140 Clarendon Street, YWCA Building, 7th floor. 5:30pm-9pm. \$10 donation. RSVP 236-1012.

Boston □ **Men of Color AIDS Information Group** sponsored by the Multicultural AIDS Coalition. At the United South End Settlements ("Harriet Tubman House") 566 Columbus Ave. 7pm-9pm. Info: Victor Rivera, 536-0390 (days) or Charles B. Tarver IV, 884-2478 (evenings).

16 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, GCN: 617/426-4469.

Boston □ **Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation** meets at 338 Newbury Street, Rm 202. 6:30pm. 868-0416.

Boston □ **The Pat Graney Company**, "Breaking the Boundry Between Dance and Gymnastics." Emerson Majestic Theatre, 217-219 Tremont Street. Thru 11/18. 8pm. \$15/\$12. 491-7377.

Boston □ **FCHC's Living Well Series**, Sex, Intimacy for Gay & Bisexual Men. 332 Newbury Street. 6:30pm-8:30pm. Paul or Robb at 267-0900 to pre-register.

Boston □ **The Group** a social/discussion group meets to discuss "Being Gay During the Holidays." At the Les/Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street. 8pm. 266-1129.

Boston □ **Boston Lesbian & Gay Pride Committee** holds planning meeting. At the Les/Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, rm 203. 7pm. 262-3149.

17 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.



18 Saturday

Boston □ **Monthly Dim Sum Brunch** with the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the Boston Bisexual Men's Network. Meet under the Chinatown Arch. 10:45am. \$6-8. BIS-MOVE for info.

Cambridge □ **Chiltern Mountain Club's** annual meeting, potluck & slide show. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 2-10pm. 288-3141.

Boston □ **Swing Dance** with "Cheek to Cheek" to benefit GLAD. At the Metropolitan Health Club, 209 Columbus Ave. 9pm-midnight. \$15. 426-1350.

Boston □ **Community Signing of the Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights Bill** with Congressmen Barney Frank, Gerry Studds, State Senator Michael Barrett & State Rep. Mark Roosevelt. At Faneuil Hall. 4pm. 262-1565.

Boston □ **Rights Bill Victory Party**. Join MGLPC, legislative sponsors & people from across the state at the Opera House, 539 Washington Street. 8pm-9:30pm, reception. 9:30pm-1am, dance/music/cash bar. \$10, \$5 limited income. 262-1565.

19 Sunday

Brookline □ **Am Tikva**, Making Contact Discussion: Legal Issues Affecting Us. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon Street. 1:30pm-3:30pm. 782-8894.

Jamaica Plain □ **Les/Gay Neighbors of J.P.** Potluck at First Church Unitarian, 6 Eliot Street. 4pm-7pm. Kenn, 524-0833 or Margaret, 524-8070.

Clinton □ **WOBBLES** (West of Boston Lesbians) shows lesbian videos. Janis or Cec, 508/386-7737 for details.

Boston □ **Downtown Lesbian Neighborhood Group** meets for brunch. Women who live/work/study in Back Bay/ South End/Downtown. Joan, 266-5169.

21 Tuesday

Boston □ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet to discuss "School Days — child/parent school issues." At the Lindemann Health Center, 25 Staniford Street. 8pm-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston □ **FCHC's Living Well Series**, Creating the Holidays You Want! with Rezakkah Norins. 332 Newbury Street. 6-7:30pm. Paul or Robb, 267-0900 to pre-register.

Cambridge □ **To a Safer Place** special showing to benefit the Virginia LaLonde Legal Defense Fund. At the Brattle Theatre. 6:30pm. \$10. suggested donation.

23 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info, GCN: 617/426-4469.

24 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 617/426-4469.



16 Thursday □ **The Pat Graney Company**, "Breaking the Boundary Between Dance and Gymnastics." Emerson Majestic Theatre, 217-219 Tremont Street. 8pm. \$15/\$12. Through 11/18.

Weekly events

Saturday

Boston □ **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** new training session for hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Boston □ **Gay Boston**, with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Boston □ **Body Electric**: Healing with group sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. 551 Tremont. 7:30pm. \$12. 522-9164.

Sunday

Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth** (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. 2-5pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ **Metro Healing healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston □ **The Gay Dating Show**, WUNR 1600 AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

Monday

Cambridge □ **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap**. 11/13 Codependency, 11/20 Coming Out Stories. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, Rm. 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

Tuesday

Boston □ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st & 3rd Tues. of the month. Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics**. Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston □ **Lesbian and Gay Concert & Marching Band**. No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Providence, RI □ **ACT UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. 273-7228.

Boston □ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. New Gay & Lesbian Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, Rm. 203. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. 11/14 Spirituality, 11/21 -isms. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge □ **30-plus Lesbian Rap** 7-8:30pm. 11/14 Sex, 11/21 Lies. The Women's Center (see above).

Cambridge □ **Women For Sobriety**, a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807

Arlington □ **Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15pm. Info: 547-2440 or 508/562-5807.

Wednesday

Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics**. Mass. General Hosp., lower amphitheater 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Cambridge □ **Say it, Sister!** WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Classes** sponsored by Women's Self Defense Collective. Studio 3, 731 Harrison Ave., 2nd floor. 6-8pm. \$10-\$35 sliding scale per mo. 625-1115.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

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Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

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Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

Thursday

Northampton □ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham □ **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Cambridge □ **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes**. Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

Boston □ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ **Incest Survivors Group**. Women's Center (see above). 7:30-9:30pm.

Cambridge □ **Non-offending male sexual abuse survivors** group meets first Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

Friday

Worcester □ **AIDS Project-Worcester support group** for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston □ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

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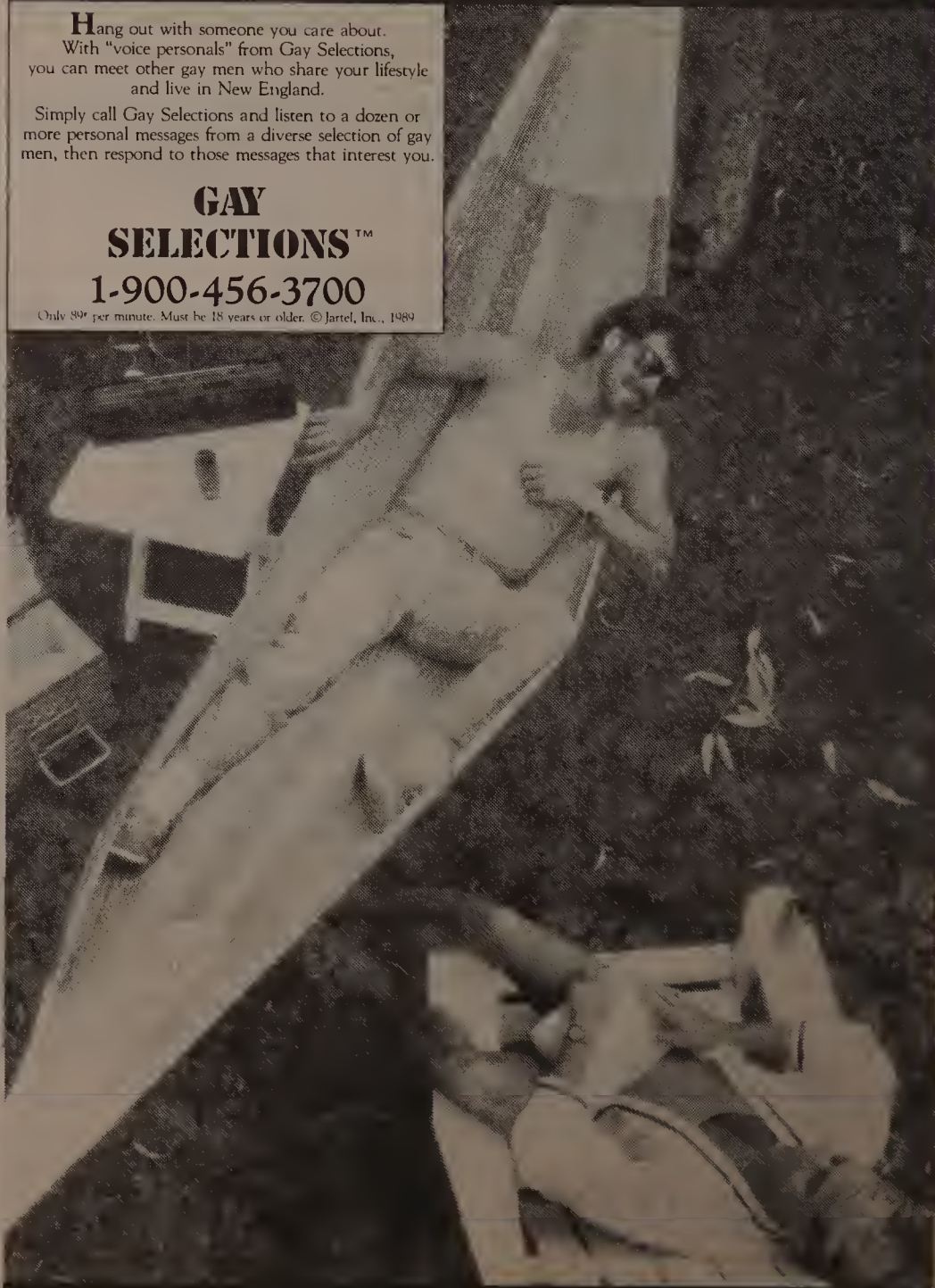
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